

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (amended): An apparatus which holds an optical fiber in alignment to an optical device, said apparatus comprising:

a fiber holder having a first plurality of indentations formed therein;

~~an~~ at least one optical fiber within a corresponding one of said first plurality of indentations;

a base substrate having a second plurality of indentations formed into said base;

a plurality of spacers, each of said plurality of spacers within a corresponding one of the second plurality of indentations, wherein said fiber holder is mounted on said base with said plurality of spacers within said first plurality of indentations; ~~and~~

an optical device mounted to said base; and

an additional spacer mounted within one of said second plurality of indentations,

wherein said optical fiber extends between opposite ends of said fiber holder, and

wherein said fiber holder is mounted to said base in contact with said additional spacer at one of said ends of said fiber holder and establishes a horizontal position of said fiber holder.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the optical device comprises a lens.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first plurality of indentations includes an elongated groove, and wherein said optical fiber is held within the elongated groove.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second plurality of indentations includes at least one trapezoidal-shaped pocket.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the second plurality of indentations includes an elongated groove, and wherein said optical device comprises a lens mounted to said base within the elongated groove.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of spacers are spherically-shaped.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 6 wherein at least one of said plurality of spacers and said optical device are made of the same material.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first plurality of indentations includes at least one trapezoidal-shaped pocket.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second plurality of indentations includes at least one trapezoidal-shaped pocket.

Claim 10: Cancelled

Claim 11 (amended): The apparatus of claim 9 1 wherein one of the second plurality of indentations is formed to a different depth than a second of the second plurality of indentations.

Claim 12 (amended): An apparatus which holds an optical fiber in alignment to an optical device, said apparatus comprising:

a fiber holder having a first plurality of indentations formed therein;

at least one optical fiber within a corresponding one of said first plurality of indentations;

a base substrate having a second plurality of indentations formed into said base;

a plurality of spacers, each of said plurality of spacers within a corresponding one of the second plurality of indentations, wherein said fiber holder is mounted on said base with said plurality of spacers within said first plurality of indentations;

an optical device mounted to said base, said optical device comprising a lens;

~~The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said base further comprises:~~

a third plurality of indentations formed in said base; and

a second plurality of spacers, each of said second plurality of spacers within a corresponding one of said third plurality of indentations, wherein said optical device is mounted to said base with an edge of said optical device in contact with at least two of said second plurality of spacers and establishes a horizontal position of said optical device.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said optical device has a round central section.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the optical device comprises one of a dome-shaped lens and a disk-shaped lens.

Claim 15: Cancelled

Claim 16 (amended): An apparatus which holds an optical fiber in alignment to an optical device, said apparatus comprising:

a fiber holder having a first plurality of indentations formed therein;

at least one optical fiber within a corresponding one of said first plurality of indentations;

a base substrate having a second plurality of indentations formed into said base;

a plurality of spacers, each of said plurality of spacers within a corresponding one of the second plurality of indentations, wherein said fiber holder is mounted on said base with said plurality of spacers within said first plurality of indentations;

an optical device mounted to said base, said optical device comprising a lens and ~~The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said optical device has at least one flat face;~~

a third plurality of indentations formed in said base; and  
a second plurality of spacers, each of said second plurality of spacers within a  
corresponding one of said third plurality of indentations, wherein said optical device is  
mounted to said base with said flat face in contact with at least three of said second plurality  
of spacers and establishes a vertical position of said optical device.

Claim 17 (amended): The apparatus of claim ~~15~~ 16 wherein said ~~optical device comprises~~  
lens is one of a dome-shaped lens and a disk-shaped lens.

Claim 18 (amended): An apparatus which holds an optical fiber in alignment to an optical  
device, said apparatus comprising:

a fiber holder having a first plurality of indentations formed therein;  
at least one optical fiber within a corresponding one of said first plurality of  
indentations;  
a base substrate having a second plurality of indentations formed into said base;  
a plurality of spacers, each of said plurality of spacers within a corresponding one of  
the second plurality of indentations, wherein said fiber holder is mounted on said base with  
said plurality of spacers within said first plurality of indentations; and  
an optical device mounted to said base;

~~The apparatus of claim 1~~ wherein the second plurality of indentations formed in said  
base includes at least one indentation located adjacent to an edge of said base, and wherein  
one of said plurality of spacers held within the one indentation adjacent to the edge of said  
base protrudes beyond the edge of said base and establishes a known distance from a contact  
point on said spacer to a point on said base.

Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the one indentation adjacent to the  
edge of said base is a trapezoidal-shaped pocket, and wherein the one of said plurality of  
spacers held within the one indentation adjacent to the edge of said base contacts an interior  
wall of the trapezoidal-shaped pocket.

Claim 20 (amended): An apparatus which holds a plurality of optical fibers in alignment to a plurality of optical devices, said apparatus comprising:

- a fiber holder having a first plurality of indentations formed therein;
- a plurality of optical fibers, each of said plurality of fibers within a corresponding one of the first plurality of indentations;
- a base substrate having a second plurality of indentations formed into said base;
- a plurality of spacers, each of said plurality of spacers within a corresponding one of the second plurality of indentations, wherein said fiber holder is mounted on said base with said plurality of spacers within said first plurality of indentations; and
- a plurality of optical devices mounted to an end of said fiber holder wherein each of said plurality of optical devices are aligned with a corresponding one of said plurality of optical fibers,

wherein said base substrate further includes an elongate recess and wherein said plurality of optical devices fits into said recess.

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein at least one of said plurality of optical devices comprises a lens.

Claim 22: Cancelled